

February 7, 2006

Marc P. Volavka
Executive Director
Pennsylvania Health Care Cost Containment Council
225 Market Street
Suite 400
Harrisburg, PA 19101

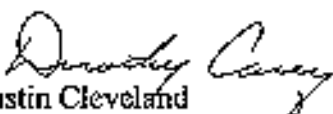
Dear Mr. Volavka:

We have reviewed the PHC4 2004 CABG Report, Final Outcomes Data. We continue to review 100% of cases to identify and improve quality of care issues.

The 30-day post mortality rates have multiple intervening factors that may occur outside of the acute care setting. It should be noted that 10% of the CABG mortalities were actually unrelated to their surgery. 50% of the CABG mortalities were DNR status, thus not allowing for interventions that may have prevented the mortality.

Thank you for the opportunity to comment.

Sincerely,



Austin Cleveland
President and Chief Executive Officer

nw

50th Anniversary
1954 • 2004

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